

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor, Wisconsin State Journal:

Newspapers carried very little news about the death Nov. 5 of Edward L. Tatum, 65, University of Wisconsin-Madison graduate and a Nobel Prize winner.

Dr. Tatum was indeed one of our most distinguished alumni, and his death is a loss to science, to this country, to his numerous friends and colleagues.

The son of the late Arthur L. Tatum, professor of pharmacology on the Madison campus, Dr. Tatum received the UW B.A. in 1931, the M.S. in 1932, and the Ph.D. in 1934.

In 1958 he received the Nobel Prize for medicine and physiology, along with his student, Joshua Lederberg, another outstanding Wisconsin graduate, and his former Stanford colleague, George Beadle.

Because of his distinguished and original contributions as a thinker and a research worker in the fields of microbiology, biochemistry, and genetics, the University of Wisconsin conferred an honorary Doctor of Science degree on Dr. Tatum in 1964.

After leaving Madison, Dr. Tatum served with distinction at Stanford and Yale universities and the Rockefeller Institute while working on the nutrition, biochemistry, and genetics of microorganisms.

One of Dr. Tatum's primary contributions to science was helping to prove that individual genes, the chemical units of heredity, are coded messages specifying the makeup of individual proteins.

Ill for several months, Dr. Tatum leaves his wife; two daughters, Miss Barbara Tatum and Mrs. Margaret Easter, both residing in California; and a step-mother, Mrs. A. L. Tatum, a Madison resident.

E. B. Fred
Emeritus President